

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-31 were rejected. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

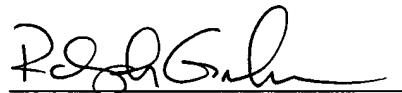
Claims 1-31 are patentable because the Luttrell patent is not valid prior art against the present application. The Luttrell patent and the present application were co-pending applications and, therefore, the Luttrell patent is only available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). However, the Luttrell patent and the present application were both owned by the same entity of the time of the invention of the present application. Therefore, the Luttrell patent is not valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). The attached Statement of Common Ownership is evidence of this common ownership. As the Examiner has acknowledged, claims 1-31 are patentable over the remaining references. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1-31 allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 24, 2004



Ralph A. Graham
Reg. No. 47,607
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS
ALLEN-BRADLEY COMPANY, LLC
Patent Department/704P Floor 8 T-29
1201 South Second Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204
Attention: Mr. Alexander Gerasimow
Phone: (414) 382-2000